

TO: Honorable Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Toni Walker, and the Members of the
Appropriations Committee

Testimony in FAVOR of SB816

An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding Under the Education Cost Sharing
Grant Formula

Thursday, April 2, 2015

A fair and equitable education is one of our most important responsibilities. As you know, Haddam is the tenth most underfunded ECS town (at 42%) of all 169 municipalities. 19 towns funded below 50% of their fair share. These communities, including the one in which our family lives, must either raise more tax revenue or go without. When Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant closed our grand list dropped dramatically. The formula was never adjusted for this drastic change and that must be changed. The ECS formula was created to make education fair and equitable for all but presently it does the opposite by pitting municipalities against one another. SB816 is a first step in fixing the funding formula for all communities throughout the state but will most directly impact Haddam. Please support this Bill and in doing so, support the education of the students in our town and the other underfunded towns in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Tim and Carlye Kohs

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